

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SILVER STATE HELICOPTERS**

- ➔ GFDC was briefed by Wayne Breise on July 19, 2004 that Silver State Helicopters would be an additional major fixed base operator at Gillespie Field
- ➔ County consented to Silver State Helicopters sublease on August 23, 2004 with a termination date of August 1, 2007
- ➔ Silver State's hours of operation are from 6am – 10pm daily
- ➔ Silver State currently operates with a total of 9 Helicopters
- ➔ Silver State has 118 active students plus 2 US military who are away on deployment
- ➔ Silver State has 25-30 daily flight operations during the winter months; this number will increase during the summer
- ➔ Silver State has up to 72 possible sorties daily (a single sortie could put a helicopter over a property multiple times)
- ➔ There are eight days during the year that Silver State does not operate:
  - New Years Day
  - Easter
  - July 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Memorial Day
  - Labor Day
  - Thanksgiving Day
  - The day after Thanksgiving
  - Christmas
- ➔ Silver State's Flight Training includes:
  - Approximately 200 hours of flight time, taking some 18 months
  - Basic Helicopter Operation, including emergency procedures (not practiced over populated areas)
  - Navigation
  - Private Pilot's License
  - Flight Instructor Certification
- ➔ All Silver State flight instructors are certified by FAA as instructors on the types of helicopters they teach on

- To date the following has been done to control noise and assure safety over neighborhoods surrounding Gillespie Field:
- Limiting early morning and late evening touch-and-go training flights
  - Limiting the number of helicopters in the pattern to a maximum of two
  - Turning in toward the airport over Highway 67 whenever the amount of traffic in the pattern allows and when FAA ATCT permits
  - Using the airports north/south runway as the primary runway for this kind of repetitive training

All of the above are voluntary procedures only. If FAA ATCT have to send aircraft or helicopters over housing areas to maintain safety and distance from other aircraft, they will do so

See attached diagram (Noise Abatement Pattern Procedures For Helicopter)

- Since Silver State's arrival in August of 2004 there have been no formal inspections carried out by FAA Flight Safety Office (However, there have been a couple of informal inspections)
- The following are the limitation on the County establishing hours of operation and number of flights for Silver State:
- **FAA Grant Assurances** – Assurance 19, Access and noise restrictions and denial of use policies must be reasonable and unjustly discriminatory
  - **FAA Noise and Capacity Act 1990** – Page 482 (d) (2) (A) FAA Secretary will not approve any access restriction that is viewed as unreasonable, arbitrary or discriminatory
  - **Airport Noise and Capacity Act 1990** – SEC. 9307. LIMITATION ON AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REVENUE – Under no conditions shall any airport receive revenue under the provisions of the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 or impose or collect a passenger facility charge... unless Secretary (FAA) assures that the airport is not imposing any noise or access restriction not in compliance with this subtitle
- The FAA wrote a letter that stated the County could shut Silver State down or at least control their hours, times of operation, number of operations, flight patterns, altitudes, training/auto rotation activities, etc.
- **This letter has been retracted and is recognized by FAA as having been in error.** (See attached letter dated Feb 7, 2005)
- According to the lease the County can only withhold consent for subleases for the following reasons:

- Lessee is in default
- Sublease document they provide is not subject to the terms of the master lease
- We object to financial agreement or condition
- They don't give us document and tell us the terms
- Lessee has not built required improvements
- Lessee doesn't pay fee

We have to give them the reason we deny consent and they can try to get a Court Order to require it.

We already consented to this agreement through July 31, 2007.

Lease is subject to restrictions of other agencies. If FAA says no, we can too.